



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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Instruction Memorandum No. 2005-033  
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To: Field Office Managers

From: Deputy State Director, Resources Division

Subject: Vehicle Cleaning to Prevent the Spread of Noxious Weeds

Undesirable plants and noxious weeds are threatening many native plant communities throughout Arizona. We estimate that noxious weeds are spreading on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands at more than 2,300 acres per day and on all western public lands at approximately 4,600 acres per day.

We are currently experiencing a busy fire season, and fire crews are being deployed to fight fires on BLM, Forest and Tribal lands for both in-state and out-of-state assignments. To reduce the transportation, introduction, and establishment of noxious weeds on and around BLM lands, staff must implement additional precautionary measures for all fire suppression and support vehicles prior to reaching and leaving any fire incident.

Fire vehicles, engines, trucks, heavy equipment, etc., will be washed after being driven on natural surface or gravel roads in areas where noxious weeds are present (specifically April-October). On-site fire equipment should be used to thoroughly clean the undercarriage, fender wells, tires, radiator, and exterior of the vehicle. The cleaning area should also be clearly marked to identify the area for post-fire weed control treatments, as needed. Firefighter safety and protection of life and property are the highest priorities during all fire operations. Therefore, it is the Fire Management Officer's discretion to modify this constraint, if necessary, to assure these safety priorities are not compromised.

Field Office Dispatchers ordering fire resources from other Arizona Field Offices, out-of-state BLM Field Offices, or other agencies will be required to request that all vehicles on a resource order will be washed prior to leaving their home office or fire incident. Upon leaving the fire incident, all ordered fire resources will be required to follow the same procedures listed above.

Fire personnel are encouraged to become more familiar with noxious weeds found on their home unit and with the standards for fire operations as it applies to noxious weed prevention. All incident commanders should consult with resource advisors and "local" personnel to identify any noxious weeds and take the necessary precautions.

If you have any questions, please contact Helen Graham at (602) 417-9307, or L.D. Walker at (435) 688-3242.

Signed by:  
Michael A. Taylor  
Deputy State Director  
Resources Division

Authenticated by:  
Susan Williams  
Staff Assistant

cc: AZ934 Fire Management Officer